

Trail-blazers: City of Firsts



Trail-blazers: City of Firsts: San Jose is a community that was built by many individuals that showed great leadership and influence in catalyzing innovations and new ways of thinking (Cesar Chavez, Norm Mineta, Charles Harrold, James Jerome Owen, etc.). The origin of the word *trail blazer*, references people who led the way through the dark forests by lighting fires. This float is composed of a forest of trees that metamorphose into buildings surrounding a symbolic representation of the San Jose Electric Tower, a 237-foot high iron tower illuminated night and day by carbon arc lamps in recognition of San Jose's standing as the first electrified city west of the Rockies. The tower stood over the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets until it blew down in a windstorm. The red line represents the trail.